

DISEASE WARNINGS - BE VIGILANT

Bluetongue update

Bluetongue virus is currently circulating in France. APHA has warned that there is a 60-80% chance of the disease reaching the UK by the end of summer 2016. Midges blown across from France into southern England are the most likely source of infection. Signs to look out for in sheep and goats:

- Eye and nasal discharge
- Swelling of the head, neck and tongue
- Mouth ulcerations and drooling
- Lethargy and lameness



Currently, the use of insecticides and risk-based movements (not importing sheep or attending shows in higher risk areas) are our main prevention tools, however the BTV-8 vaccine may become available if there is enough demand.

Bluetongue is a notifiable disease. Be vigilant and report any suspicious signs to your local branch or APHA office. Please give your local branch a call if concerned or to discuss prevention strategies.

Fluke warning

The mild and wet winter has been perfect conditions for mud snails which are essential for the fluke life cycle. This has greatly increased the fluke risk for out-wintered sheep this spring. Fascioliasis symptoms include anaemia, weight loss and decreased milk production. Infected sheep will also contaminate pasture with more fluke eggs, which hatch and infect more mud snails. Progressively, pasture contamination gets worse and this increases the risk for all grazed sheep.

Fluke Treatment Options

Sheep don't develop immunity to fluke so sheep can quickly become re-infected if left on contaminated pasture. This spring, adult fluke are likely to be causing the biggest problem so fluke products like Flukiver or Trodax are suitable. This also preserves the products containing Triclabendazole, like Fasinex, for later in the year when they are essential to target IMMATURE fluke which migrate through the liver of sheep which can be fatal.



WECS - BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

Penbode are once again offering the fantastic deal of **10 Worm Egg Counts for just £70 plus a £5 voucher for wormers**. Samples can be dropped off throughout 2016.

The speedy turnaround of results allows you to check worm burden levels before you splash out on buying wormers.

Pre and post drench checks can be done to assess treatment effectiveness and is very useful if anthelmintic resistance is suspected.

Young Lamb Scour, is it Worms or Coccidiosis?

Nematodirus worms and cocci can cause scour in young lambs. Both require **specific** treatments so a **diagnosis is essential** to select the correct treatment. Cocci can be treated by products such as **Vecoxan** or **Baycox**, where as Nematodirus can easily be treated with white drench such as Rycoben SC. Diagnosis is quick and easy with a dung sample. Worm egg counts can also be used to detect worm species and help drench selection.

Go to **www.scops.org.uk** and look for the Nematodirus Forecast to see the up to date predicted risk of disease for your flock's area.

Too Many Barren? Too Many Abortions?

Penbode are offering a **FREE** Flock Check visit and lab fees to blood test 8 barren or aborted ewes for exposure to *Toxoplasma* or *Chlamydophila* (Enzootic) infections. For just £25 + P&P, the results can be used to decide whether vaccination is required for next season. Phone your branch for more information and to book a visit.

MAXIMISING LAMB SURVIVAL

Prevention of neonatal diseases

The intensive nature of lambing time unfortunately means that the environment can become a harbour for many pathogens that can affect the health of newborns. Bacteria are responsible for infections such as watery mouth, navel ill and joint ill, whereas protozoan parasites (cryptosporidium and coccidiosis) and viruses can cause scours in the first few weeks of life.

Prevention of these diseases comes in two main forms – protecting the **environment** and optimising **lamb immunity**.

Maintaining a **clean and dry** environment will help to limit pathogen survival and build-up. Use lime and plenty of fresh bedding. Would you like to live there? If not how can you expect a newborn to survive? Make sure you **dip navels with 10% iodine** as soon as possible after birth, and ensure the free end of the cord gets coated, not just the base.

Colostrum is full of protective antibodies that can be absorbed by the newborn lamb's permeable gut. Absorption is maximal within the first 6 hours of life. The first feed stimulates gut closure so the first feed should be the best feed. If the lamb does not suck, feed 50ml/kg for the first feed, and a minimum of 210ml/kg body weight in the first 24 hours. If a ewe has no colostrum use a foster ewe, a frozen supply (slowly defrosted) or as a last resort high quality colostrum replacement powder.

Remember to check all newborn lambs for entropion

Entropion is a very painful congenital condition where one or both bottom eyelids are turned inward. The surface of the eye becomes damaged and untreated cases can progress to corneal ulcers, blindness and possibly death through starvation. Mild cases will respond to topical antibiotic creams and manual eversion, however unresponsive or severe cases will need veterinary attention. Remember – **affected lambs should not become part of the breeding flock** and **sires of affected lambs should not be kept for breeding**. If you want further advice on how to manually correct entropion please contact us at your local branch.

Entropion in a new born lamb - Note the watery appearance with a rolled in lower eyelid



Dog Microchip Reminder!

From 6th April 2016, **ALL** dogs in England must be microchipped and registered on an authorised database by law. Microchipping is available at our Penbode Pet branches.

Alternatively, a farm vet can microchip your farm dogs whilst out on farm for just £12.76 + VAT (please ensure to book this in advance)

REDUCING THE RISK OF SUDDEN DEATH

Clostridial and Pasteurella infections are a serious threat to unvaccinated sheep and can strike without warning. Pasteurella pneumonia is the largest cause of sudden death in adult sheep and almost all cases of clostridial disease are fatal. Post mortems can be used to diagnose the cause of death. Vaccination options for both diseases include **Heptavac P Plus or Ovivac P Plus**. **Lambivac** is protective against the most common clostridial diseases. **Ewe vaccination will protect lambs for the first 3 weeks of life, after which they need to be vaccinated themselves**. All sheep require two vaccines 4-6 weeks apart as a primary course after which they can be given an annual booster. All replacement breeding animals (ewes and rams) should be vaccinated when they join the flock.

OUR BENCHMARKING SERVICE IS ONCE AGAIN UP AND RUNNING THIS YEAR

If you would like to see how you are getting on in comparison with other flocks in the area then please fill in the form

attached and return to your local branch. All data is confidential, your name will not be visible to any other farmers.